

## Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-02 INSE-00 H-02 SP-02 /053 R

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EUR/EE:RMOSHER

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R 140746Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118681

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CSCE, CVIS, BU

SUBJECT: NON-IMMIGRANT VISA FEES

REFS: (A) STATE 94916; (B) SOFIA 973

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED SUGGESTION IN SOFIA 973.  
WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON LOWER-  
ING NIV FEES (REF A) AND, AT SAME TIME, SATISFACTORILY  
HANDLE ANY BULGARIAN SUGGESTION ON ELIMINATION OF VISA  
REQUIREMENTS. WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT BULGARIA OR OTHER  
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EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOW CHARGING NIV FEES WILL WANT

TO ABANDON THIS PRACTICE SINCE THEY DERIVE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF HARD CURRENCY FROM IT. HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE TO MAKE APPROACHES ON LOWERING NIV FEES TO NO-FEE STATUS AS SUCH APPROACHES CONFORM WITH GENERAL US POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WOULD BE INSTANCE OF US IMPLEMENTATION ACTION RELATED TO CSCE RESULTS.

2. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE PRESENTATION INDICATED IN STATE 94916; PRESENTATION SHOULD BE POSITIVE IN TONE, RECALLING PREVIOUS CONSTRUCTIVE US-BULGARIAN CONTACTS ON CSCE-RELATED ISSUES.

3. IF BULGARIANS PROPOSE SUSPENSION OF VISAS FOR TOURIST TRAVEL, YOU SHOULD NOTE US SUPPORTS GREATER FACILITATION OF TRAVEL FOR CITIZENS OF ALL STATES, AND THIS IS BASIS FOR OUR DEMARCHE ON REDUCTION OF NIV FEES TO NO-FEE STATUS. HOWEVER, US IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, AS ENACTED AND AMENDED BY CONGRESS, REQUIRES THAT VISITORS TO US MUST HOLD US VISAS UPON ARRIVAL AT US POINT OF ENTRY. CAREFUL REGULATION OF VISA ISSUANCE BY US LAW IS DUE TO FACT THAT US IS MAJOR IMMIGRATION COUNTRY WITH GREAT FREEDOM OF INTERNAL MOVEMENT AND VIRTUALLY NO CONTROL OF PEOPLE ONCE THEY ENTER US. AS IN MOST COUNTRIES, OUR VISA LAW IS ALSO DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE VARIOUS TYPES OF UNDESIRABLE INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MAY PREJUDICE OUR SECURITY. THUS, CAREFUL VISA ISSUANCE POLICY IS NECESSITY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT CONGRESS WOULD FAVOR CHANGE IN LAW TO PROVIDE FOR VISA-FREE ARRANGEMENT WITH ANY COUNTRY.

4. ADDITIONALLY, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT FINAL ACT TEXT, AGREED BY ALL 35 STATES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE CSCE, CONTAINS PROVISION SPECIFICALLY CALLING FOR REDUCTION IN VISA FEES FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL. THERE IS NO PROVISION IN FINAL ACT CONCERNING ELIMINATION OF VISAS FOR SUCH TRAVEL.

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** CVIS, BU, CSCE  
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